

with Senator BAUCUS, Montana comes first, but we all know, all of us serving in the Senate, that he is a reservoir of good will, intelligence, and understanding, and he helps us all with our problems.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

#### TRIBUTE TO LAURIE SULLIVAN

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I speak today in tribute to a friend, Laurie Sullivan, who passed away late last month.

Laurie was a lawyer, a legislative advocate, and a business leader. I admired Laurie professionally and personally. But I was not alone, because everyone admired Laurie.

Laurie was a cut above the rest. Washington is a place where people can lose their way. Not Laurie. She was grounded. And she was centered.

Laurie stood out because she was in it for the right reasons. She built a well-respected consulting firm, because she cared about good policy. She cared about making Government work.

People admired Laurie for her intelligence, her wit, and her graciousness. She was a breath of fresh air. A veteran of Capitol Hill, Laurie was confident enough to take her work seriously, but not so much that she couldn't laugh or share a joke.

People were drawn to Laurie because she was the kind of person who gave energy. She didn't take it.

Nothing made Laurie happier than being with her family. She talked about her nieces and nephews frequently. Her face lit up each time she mentioned their latest activities or accomplishments. She was proud of them. And she treasured the time that she spent with them. She described trips with her family as priceless memories.

Laurie was also a very generous person. And her generosity was not limited to her family. She gave generously of her time and resources to her community and her friends.

She worked with a local mentoring program focusing on teenagers who had experienced a death in the family. She hired a student from the University of Virginia at Wise. The student worked at her firm for the summer. Laurie gave him a laptop computer. She helped him pay his college bills.

Laurie also gave advice. She counseled her nieces and nephews. She counseled the students whom she mentored. She recommended strategies for her clients. And she counseled women who were starting a business.

She gave her views on healthcare and politics to me and other Senators who were lucky enough to be part of her circle of friends. Her advice was always solid.

When her nieces and nephews followed her advice, they prospered. Laurie's business grew, because her clients learned that she was right. The students she mentored succeeded in college.

Laurie was truly a wonderful person. She knew what was most important in this world. And she made the most of it while she was with us. We should all be so lucky as to live that way.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BAUCUS. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NATIONAL AFTERSCHOOL ASSOCIATION 20TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, next week, members of the afterschool community will be gathering for the 20th anniversary of the National AfterSchool Association Conference. The initial conference held two decades ago marked the first formal meeting of afterschool professionals under their own organization to discuss and develop solutions to address the needs of school-age children during their hours out of school.

Of course, back then we didn't call it afterschool. Instead, we talked about "latchkey" programs for "latchkey kids." At the outset, these programs replaced the need for latchkeys around the neck with welcoming, safe, and nurturing environments; they were a prime factor in the creation of the Act for Better Child Care.

As pioneers in the school-age movement, this passionate, dedicated group of leaders recognized that the needs of these students were distinct from those of early childhood. Their movement helped school-age providers network and share resources, culminating in the creation of the National School-Age Care Alliance, which later became the National Afterschool Association, NAA. Over time, 36 State affiliates were established.

In the past two decades, the field has evolved and NAA with it. Parents wanted more opportunities for their children, and the need for assuring quality programming became evident. In collaboration with the School Age Child Project at Wellesley College, NAA developed national quality standards and a national accreditation process for afterschool programs. These standards became the foundation for other groups' guidelines for programs for school-age children.

The NAA continues to be a leading voice in the afterschool community with almost 10,000 members nationally and internationally. The professionals who make up NAA's membership supply a critical component of quality programs, providing children with high-quality programming and positive relationships with adult mentors. The NAA has worked on behalf of the afterschool workforce to improve its quality and ensure that the profession's voice

is heard. Today, their annual conference remains a key way for the afterschool community to share and network.

Afterschool has grown by leaps and bounds and now includes a diversity of programs providing a wide array of opportunities for young people. These programs tackle a variety of issues including bolstering academic performance, preventing childhood obesity, and exposing children to the arts and music. Through time, the NAA has always maintained its commitment to supporting quality programs with well-trained staff dedicated to helping children grow to the best of their abilities. Because of the NAA, parents can more successfully balance their work and home life and millions of American children have safe places to grow and develop when the school day ends.

I am proud to join with those in attendance at this milestone NAA conference celebrating the journey of the past 20 years. I congratulate the members of the afterschool community on this special anniversary and thank them for their hard work creating safe and engaging environments for our children.

#### COSPONSORS OF S. 2716

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senator from Alabama, Mr. SESSIONS, the Senator from Texas, Mr. CORNYN, the Senator from Louisiana, Mr. VITTER, and the Senator from South Carolina, Mr. DEMINT, be added as cosponsors to my bill to authorize the National Guard to provide support for the border control activities of the United States Customs and Border Protection of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, S. 2716.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NATIONAL SLEEP AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize March 8, 2008, as Suddenly Sleepy Saturday—A Day of Narcolepsy Awareness, part of National Sleep Awareness Week. Sleep is an integral part of health and overall well-being, and its importance cannot be stressed enough. Sleep disorders present a chronic health threat that can compromise normal physical, mental, and emotional functioning. There are an estimated 135,000 Americans suffering from narcolepsy, and half of that total remains undiagnosed.

Narcolepsy is a chronic disorder, which causes excessive daytime sleepiness, irresistible sleep attacks, and cataplexy—a loss of muscle tone, hypnagogic hallucinations, sleep paralysis, and disrupted nighttime sleep in women, men, and children of all ethnic backgrounds. Symptoms often begin in the teen years and increase over time. Undiagnosed narcolepsy can impair educational goals, relationships, career success, and even one's independence.

Suddenly Sleepy Saturday is an effort to lead the estimated 65,000 Americans who are living with undiagnosed narcolepsy to a proper diagnosis and treatment. This day of awareness will allow for expanding knowledge of life with narcolepsy and will allow participating communities to better support people who struggle with the challenges of this chronic neurological disorder. I am pleased that many South Dakotans, including those in Aberdeen, SD, will be commemorating Suddenly Sleepy Saturday and raising awareness of narcolepsy.

I urge all citizens to support the search for the cause, cure, and prevention of narcolepsy and assist those individuals and families who deal with this devastating disorder on a daily basis.

#### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, on March 8 we will commemorate International Women's Day, which, since 1911, has given us an opportunity to pause and assess the status of women worldwide. Since that time, we have seen great achievements by women in many parts of the world. The last century began with women in the United States fighting for the right to vote, while today we see the first real chance that a woman will be elected President.

While substantial progress has been made here and in other countries, millions of women around the world continue to live in poverty and fear. Women are denied decent health care, denied economic opportunities, denied education, and denied security for themselves and their children. Women face epidemic levels of violence. One in three women worldwide will experience gender-based violence in her lifetime. In some countries, that is true for 70 percent of women. No country is immune. From the trafficking of women in Eastern Europe, to "honor" killings in the Middle East, to the use of rape as a weapon of war in Darfur and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, violence against women and girls crosses all borders and affects women in all social groups, religions and socioeconomic classes.

A recently released survey of 1,500 women in Iraq by Women for Women International indicates that women there are suffering high levels of violence. The survey found that 63.9 percent of those surveyed believe that violence against women is increasing for reasons including lack of respect for women's rights and a worsening economy. The report quotes a police chief in the southern city of Basra who says that "[r]eligious vigilantes have killed at least 40 women this year . . . because of how they dressed, their mutilated bodies found with notes warning against 'violating Islamic teachings.'"

Violence has a profound impact on the health and development of countries worldwide. Violence against women and girls violates their basic

human rights. It impedes women's full and active participation in their communities and societies. And it limits our effort to foster development around the world. Violence prevents girls from going to school, stops women from holding jobs, and limits access to critical health care for women and their children. We can't eradicate poverty and disease unless we prevent and respond to the violence women face in their own homes and communities. And we can't empower women to become active in civic life and promote peace, prosperity and democracy unless they personally are free from fear of violence. It is no surprise, then, that at this year's World Economic Forum, Secretary Rice stated that if she could focus on one thing in developing countries, it would be the empowerment of women.

Violence against women is a global health crisis, not just because so many women and girls are injured and die but also because the violence interferes with efforts to save the lives of pregnant women and babies. Rape increases vulnerability to HIV-AIDS transmission. In sub-Saharan Africa alone, women account for close to three-quarters of those living with HIV-AIDS between the ages 18 and 24.

The picture is grim and can be discouraging. But the good news is that local organizations are working in communities around the world with courage, sensitivity, and success to help women overcome violence at home, in school, and at work. Governments are bringing together all sectors of their country to try to prevent and end abuse. But they need our help.

We have made tremendous progress in reducing violence against women here in the United States since we passed the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, in 1994. It is time to throw our weight and leadership behind efforts to help women and their families worldwide lead safer, healthier lives. Stopping gender-based violence isn't just the moral thing to do; it is also smart diplomacy since violence contributes to the poverty, inequality, and instability that threaten our security.

Last fall, Senator LUGAR and I introduced S. 2279, the International Violence Against Women Act. This groundbreaking, bipartisan legislation would ensure that our foreign assistance programs include efforts to end gender-based violence.

We would accomplish this goal in three ways:

First, we propose to reorganize and rejuvenate the gender-related efforts of the State Department by creating one central office—the Office for Women's Global Initiatives, directed by a Senate-confirmed Ambassador who reports directly to the Secretary of State. The coordinator will monitor and coordinate all U.S. resources, programs, and aid abroad that deal with women's issues, including gender-based violence. This centralization will ensure the most efficient use of taxpayer funds.

Second, we mandate a 5-year, comprehensive strategy to combat violence against women in 10 to 20 targeted countries. We would allocate \$175 million a year to support programs dealing with violence against women in five areas: the criminal and civil justice system, health care, access to education and school safety, women's economic empowerment, and public awareness campaigns that change social norms.

Third, we know through terrible experience that women and girls are especially vulnerable to violence in humanitarian crises and in conflict and postconflict situations. Reports of refugee women being raped while collecting firewood, soldiers sexually abusing girls through bribery with token food items, or women subjected to torture as a tool of war are horrific. The act requires training for workers and peacekeeping forces and establishes reporting mechanisms and other emergency measures.

The issue of violence against women and girls is complex, and our legislation is ambitious. We are mindful that no country has a perfect record or all the answers. Yet Congress has a long and proud history of tackling complex international problems, most recently the epidemic of HIV-AIDS and the crime of human trafficking.

Former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan said "Violence against women is perhaps the most shameful human rights violation. And it is perhaps the most pervasive. It knows no boundaries of geography, culture or wealth. As long as it continues, we cannot claim to be making real progress towards equity, development and peace." We could not agree more. Our International Violence Against Women Act brings together, for the first time, coordinated American resources and leadership to this global issue.

We believe the time is now for the United States to get actively engaged in the fight for women's lives and girls' futures. There is no better way to commemorate International Women's Day.

#### CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION REFORM ACT

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to express my complete support for H.R. 4040, the Consumer Product Safety Commission Reform Act, which passed the Senate yesterday with an overwhelming bipartisan majority. Regrettably, I was unable to vote on final passage of H.R. 4040, as I had a previous commitment that prevented me from being there. However, I believe so strongly in the Government's responsibility to maintain the highest level of product safety that I wanted the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect how pleased I am that the Senate passed H.R. 4040, after substituting the text of S. 2663 as amended, and to extend my congratulations to the bill's principal